

January 2014

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Brady, Texas

<http://fbcbrady.org/>

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A reason to go forward

by Dr. Kevin McDonald

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Of all the holidays we celebrate, New Year's is the one I get the least excited about. I guess that over the years I have begun to see a lack of anything new, except for my desk calendar. We call it a new year, but is it really?

I predict that for 2014 there will not be peace in the Middle East, and Africa will still be poor and exploited. The budget (yours, mine or the United States') will not be balanced, bipartisanship will again elude both Houses, people will still be stupid, there will still be no cure for baldness, and we still will not be able to go down to the car dealership and buy a flying car. In short, life on January 1, 2014, will be a lot like life was on January 1, 2013.

So why celebrate a holiday that really has nothing to offer? (As I write this, I am reminded that cynicism is not a spiritual gift, nor is it one of the fruits of the Spirit).

I think we celebrate New Year's because it offers us one thing: *hope*. You don't need me to tell you what all went wrong last year, the mistakes you made, the losses you took, the pain you gave and got. What you need to hear (and tell someone else) is that we get another chance, that we are not out of the game just yet.

We need a reason to go forward. A reason to believe that we can go on; that whatever was written in 2013 is not the final word. It is not fear that drives us, it is not habit, it is not merely the momentum of last year. It is hope that pulls us to our feet, pushes us forward, and then runs ahead of us, telling us to make just a few more steps.

I hope for you this new year. I hope you discover more about how faithful God is. I hope you learn what forgiveness, grace and mercy can do to a human heart and life. I hope you will remember that you need forgiveness, grace and mercy at least as much as you need to extend them to others. I hope you will have hope, for that is where we often find God, waiting for us at rock-bottom, offering us no solution, just hope.

The new year, like the world we live in, promises a lot that it cannot deliver. So when 2014 is being trotted out as the cure for what ails you, let us remember what Solomon discovered, that "there is nothing new under the sun", and what David said "Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him." (Ps.62:5) A very Hopeful New Year to you and yours. —Bro. Kevin.



Bro. Kevin McDonald receives Doctorate of Ministry degree

Bro. Kevin received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Logsdon Theological Seminary in Abilene on December 5, 2013.

Logsdon Seminary is part of Hardin Simmons University.

Congratulations, Bro. Kevin, on this worthy achievement!

End-of-year report from Dorcas Quilters

The Dorcas Quilting group continues to seek to serve the Lord through the beautiful craft of quilting.

In 2013 we met 35 times, gave away 5 baby quilts on Father's Day, gave a large quilt to a couple in West who had lost their home, and gave away one smaller quilt. We have 4 baby quilts finished and waiting! We are hand quilting a large quilt in the frame and have another being machine quilted.

Quilters in 2013 included Lois Patton, Doniene Fullagar, Carol Henderson, Becky Martin, Alice Young, Donna Kent, Cynthia Reeves, Marilyn Evans, Shirley Nelson, Bobbie Williams, Nelda Martin, Joyce Collier, and Tina Young. Other churches represented include New Song, Presbyterian, First United Methodist, and Christian Community Church.

The group meets on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 in the Grace Class Sunday School room. We welcome newcomers! If you would like to learn to quilt, this is a good place!



Nursery needs toys

Melissa Burkhart, chair of the Nursery Committee, is requesting donations of new or gently used toys for the church nursery.

Toys for toddlers are especially needed, such as simple puzzles and blocks.

Contact Melissa at 456-3042 or bring your gift to the nursery. Thank you!

Josh Collier nears goal for mission trip funding

To date Josh Collier has raised \$2834 of the \$4000 he will need for the mission trip to Spain July 12-22, 2014.

Thanks to everyone who attended the chili supper after the Christmas musical and gave so generously. Over \$600 was raised at that event.

Josh is available to do yard work and other odd jobs. Call Seth Spurgin at 792-4750 or Joyce Collier at 792-4848 to arrange a time. Another fundraiser meal is planned for Feb. 2 at noon.



Now is the time to think about it

by Betty Smith

FBC took a wonderful group of missionaries last summer to Red Valley, Arizona, on the Navajo Reservation, and we hope to take even more this next summer. We will be going to a new place, Tinian, New Mexico, which is also on the Reservation. The trip is organized by Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth but includes volunteers from several different churches. This year's trip is planned for June 20-29. Backyard Bible Clubs, construction/repair work, and other ministries will be carried out as the Lord leads.

Maybe God is speaking to you and asking you to go. We hope so. More information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. Consider the possibility: You—a missionary.

Last year's Brady group included Betty Smith, Lynn Munden, Cynthia Reeves, Erica Reeves, Kevin McDonald, Becky Martin, Susan Turk, Seth Spurgin, Payton Brandenberger, Carson Brandenberger, McKenna Brandenberger, Dillon Roberts, Faith Magee, and Josh Collier. Talk to any of these people for more information and catch their enthusiasm!

Youth events

December was a great month for the youth!

- Our Christmas/campout party was canceled due to bad weather on Friday night. But we did have the Christmas party the following Friday night. We had lots of fun, exchanging gifts and playing different games!

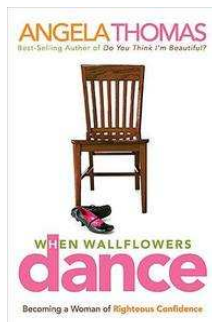
- Come and join us on Wednesday nights at 5:15!!! The junior high service starts at 5:45 and the senior high service starts at 7:15. Come get challenged and encouraged as we dig into God's Word for strength to make it through our busy and difficult weeks. We need each other to stay focused on our mission in life as followers of Jesus Christ, and what that should look like in our everyday lives. We are so easily distracted, and this is one tool to keep us on track! Don't miss this opportunity!

Jack Wells, Youth Minister

Women's ministries

Report from "Sassy Sisters":

Thanks to everyone who baked and bagged cookies for the Food Pantry's Christmas gift to around 125 families who received food boxes in December. You made Christmas a little merrier for these folks!



The January planning meeting will be at 5:00 on Sunday, Jan. 12.

The 7-week Bible study "When Wallflowers Dance" will begin on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Check with RaNon if you need a book. All ladies are invited.

Mary's Bible study:

The Bible study at Mary Ballew's will resume on Monday, January 6, at 4:00. Everyone is welcome to participate in "A word from the Word," as we read Scriptures and discuss key words from the Bible. Thank you, Mary, for hosting this gathering, and blessings on you for continuing the study in your hospital room last month!

Preschool enters 2014 at near-capacity

Well, it's 2014 and Godly Impressions Preschool is celebrating our 1 year anniversary! Praise the Lord! This time last year we had 9 students and we were open 3 days a week from 9:00 to 12:00, with Ms. Kimberly Galindo as the Preschool Teacher and myself as the Director. Today we have two preschool classes totaling 20 students, with Ms. Sterling Roddie and Ms. Mary Ann Wilton as our teachers. Then we have our 7 toddlers that stay all day with Ms. Kim Keyser and Ms. Celina Lawrence taking care of them. And we have 8 preschool students that stay all day with Ms. Shawnte Virdell. Our hours of operation have changed as well: we are now Monday thru Friday 7:00-5:30. We only have 4 baby spots available, and that is all, we are full!

For the month of January the children will be learning about "Baby Animals", their habitats, and whether they are "born" or "hatched". They will also be learning the letters "Q", "G", and "Y", the numbers "5" and "15", and the colors "brown" and "green".

Thank you all for your continued support with your prayers and monetary contributions throughout the year. This ministry of the church is proof that we are moving in the direction that the Lord has chosen for us and we could not thrive without your support. Again, thank you!

If you would like to donate snacks, these things are what we would request: Cheerios, Graham Crackers, Gold Fish Crackers, Nilla Wafers, Chex Cereal, Kix Cereal, Whales Crackers, Strawberry Pop-tarts, Cheez-It Crackers, Pretzels, Ritz Crackers, Cube Cheese, Cheese Sticks, Bananas, Apples, Oranges, Grapes, etc.

God bless,

—Kim Coleman, Preschool Director



An important part of Awana on Wed. nights is the meal served in Fellowship Hall. Lynn Munden leads this part of the ministry and plays an important part, getting there early and faithfully "feeding the troops." On Dec. 19 she served a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" birthday cake to share the reason for the season with all the children. Lynn writes:

Regular kitchen helpers for Awana are Kathy Brandenberger, Carson Brandenberger, McKenna Brandenberger, Matt Popnoe, Ruthie Garcia, Lynn Munden, Joyce Scott, Nelda Martin, and Darlene Friar. Susan Turk does all of the ordering of food and paper goods from Ben E. Keith and Mayfield Paper Co.. Substitutes are Carl Max Brandenberger, Donna Kent, and Joyce Collier.

We serve a small meal to those who might not have one. We do this in a friendly and warm environment, teaching manners along the way. We usually serve around 125 people total (workers and kids). Some of our meals include: spaghetti, hamburgers, tacos, soup and sandwiches, and pancakes and sausage (kids' favorite).

It is a joy to see the children's smiling faces and appreciation for what we do for them. All of us love serving the Lord in this way!

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Betty Daugherty Oralia Barrera	2 Stefanie McKay	3 Amelia Britteon	4
5 Evening worship 6:00; deacons meeting, 7:00 Carl Lohn	6	7 Ann Roberts Kay Holloway	8 Jaelyn McKay	9	10 Food Distribution, 10:00-12:00 Terri Virdell Donna Kent	11 Damian Everett
12 Sassy Sisters, 5:00; business meeting, 6:00 Weston Bauer Pete Barrera Joanna Coston	13 Triple S lunch, noon, Fellowship Hall David Munden	14 Grace Class meet- ing, 3:00 Janis Groves	15	16	17 Joyce Hollingsworth	18 Ida Owens
19 Church fellow- ship, 6:00	20	21 David Bishop Kathy Brandenberger Pat Matula	22 Ashlie Davee Marsha Gainer Kay Springer	23	24 Fayrene Easley Ashlee Aguirre Sharon Poe	25 Braden Kolb
26 Visitation, 6:00	27 Triple S meal and game night, 6:00 Linda Crawford	28 McKenna Bran- denberger Albert Pearson	29 Nadine Hinshaw	30	31 Doris Collins Pam Hernandez	

Weekly Events

Sunday
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 10:50 AM Morning Worship
 6:00 PM Evening Services/Events

Monday
 4:00 PM Ladies Bible study
 home of Mary Ballew
 6:30 PM CWJC, Building Men for Christ

Wednesday
 7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
 Presbyterian Church
 5:15 Youth group: middle school
 at 5:45, high school at 7:15
 5:30-7:15 AWANA, missions organizations
 6:00 Prayer meeting/Bible study

Thursday
 9:30-11:00 Dorcas quilting ministry

Deacons on call for January
 Jim Smith 597-0740
 Rex Joslin 286-4526

Greeters for January
 East Door
 Jan. 5 Joyce Collier and Josh Collier
 Jan. 12 Ken and Claudette Young
 Jan. 19 Virgil and Glenda Middleton
 Jan. 26 Carl Max and Kathy Brandenberger
 West Door: Youth

**Broadcasts on
KNEL 95.3 FM**

Sunday morning: live broadcast at 11:00 AM
Weekdays: Morning Devotional at 7:45 AM

Thanks to Becky and Ed Weber, Norma Ridout, Becky Elliott, Bro. Kevin, and Becky Martin for recording radio devotionals in December.


January devotionals will be done by Charlie Elliott, Janet Guthrie, Pat Matula, and George Matula.

Food Ministry Report

December 2013

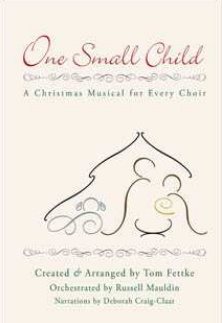
- 124 families
- 162 adults
- 80 children under 12
- 54 adults 65 and older

January food distribution will be Friday, January 11, from 10:00 to 12:00. Thanks to everyone who made cookies for the gift bags and for the Christmas reception for the Food Pantry recipients. You brought Christmas cheer to many lives!



TOTALLY HIS
 HEART, HANDS, VOICE
2013 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS OCCURS 1-10
CHURCH GOAL: \$3000.00

Goal met!
 Our giving to the Lottie Moon Offering as of Dec. 30 was \$3000.25.
 Thanks to all who gave so generously!



One Small Child
 A Christmas Musical for Every Choir
 Created & Arranged by Tom Fetzke
 Orchestrated by Russell Mauldin
 Narrations by Deborah Craig Clark

Thanks, Tyler!
 Thank you, Tyler, for directing *One Small Child* this Christmas season. It was beautifully done and brought glory to God—was a huge blessing to all who participated and to all who listened and watched.

Pray without ceasing. . .

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.
Hebrews 6:19

- our nation’s leaders
 - our members in the nursing homes
 - our homebound members
 - the lost and un-churched in our community
 - Brady children & youth
 - Our Sunday School
 - Josh Collier’s mission trip to Spain
 - Navajo mission trip
- Catherine Adams
Don Ash
Mary Ballew
Pam Beasley
Maggie Behrens
Ricky Bentley
David Bishop
Dorothy Bishop

Joyce Blackwell
Marcus Burell
Karla Burleson
Amelia Britteon
Alan Brown
April Carson
Sandra Carson
Sue Crow
Fayrene Easley
Patsy Finley
Louise Hammett
Jimmy Hodges
Kenneth House
Wesley Hyatt
Curtis and Genna Jennings
Mike Lowery
Joe Mallow
Paul and Connie Nix
Brian Owen
Tracy Parsley
James Patton

Patrick Petersen
Cynthia Reeves
Ann Roberts
Betty Schaffner
Jerry Slaughter
Mike and Laurie Slone-
Marcell Smith
Opal Smyrl
Jim Spurgin
Berniece Taylor
Joy Taylor
Jack and Susan Turk
Jim Underwood
Richard Valdez
Chelsea Watts
Billy and Doris Whitaker
Lilly Williams
Margaret Woodall
Alice Young
Kaelie Dawn Young

In military:
Daryl Booth
Jon Bradshaw
Brandon Haymon
Talisha Hendley
David Hernandez
Concho Moore
Tyler Remini
Jace Telford
Jonathan Torres
Alisha Slone
Wes Stark
Justin Williams
Ricky Williams, Jr.

We extend sympathy to the families of Lois Hulsey and Marthella Boswell.

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Deryl Bishop, Organist

The newsletter is available on the church website: fbcbrady.org. It can also be sent to your email address each month; just send your address to becky@scottmartin.net.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.


Hebrews 11:1



Congratulations to
Dr. Rob Tucker, who received his MBA from Howard Payne University in December.
Shelby Young, who received her B.S. in Behavioral Science from Hardin-Simmons on Dec. 5.



Congratulations to
David and Deryl Bishop
on their 63rd wedding anniversary

 The Bishops were married
Dec. 27, 1950,
in Pasadena, Texas.

A prayer for the Food Pantry workers
Dear Lord, I pray your blessing on this special group of people who help the needy and people who have little food. Thank you, Lord, for all who help in this food distribution. Bless them ten times more.
Lord, we thank you for giving your life for us. We love you forever and always.
In Jesus name I pray—
Lera Davee and Tommy Beard

There is not enough words to tell each of you how much we appreciate all the love and kindness you have shown our family since we lost J.H. Thanks for your prayers, food, memorials, visits, and phone calls. It is great to be a part of a loving, caring church family like ours.
Edith Slaughter and
the family of J.H. Slaughter